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HUMAN EVENTS
15 February 1986

Capital Briefs

★ Sen. **James McClure** (R.-Idaho) last week supplied his colleagues with some alarming figures on the **U.S.-Soviet nuclear weapons gap**. The Soviets now have a 6,400-2,100 edge over the United States in ICBM warheads. But by 1991, the number of the U.S. warheads will increase only to 2,800—and the Soviet arsenal will number 10,000-13,000. When it comes to intermediate-range warheads, the Soviets now lead 1,400 to 140. In 1991, the margin will be 1,600-572.

★ **McClure** warns that these estimates are conservative and that the Soviet edge will likely prove to be even larger. "The historical tendency of U.S. intelligence to underestimate Soviet strategic forces, active Soviet efforts to blind and deceive U.S. intelligence and especially the robust ICBM and IRBM mobile missile deployment programs now under way, indicate that the current gaps between Soviet forces and U.S. forces will continue to grow."

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★ French intelligence has broken up still another **Soviet spy ring**. A retired French sailor was arrested and charged with stealing French nuclear submarine secrets. Four Soviet "diplomats" were expelled for their role in the plot. It was the largest single expulsion of Soviets from France since 1983, when 47 KGB agents were ordered to leave the country.